



# CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF POUCE COUPE

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1470-20-2026-07

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Pouce Coupe Provides Information on FOI Administration

POUCE COUPE – The Village of Pouce Coupe is responding to media enquiries regarding the costs and work involved in recent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

One request in particular requires the review of all Village records related to the North Wind Wellness Centre. Processing this request requires the review of more than 5,000 records. While a large portion of the records sought are already publicly available, the request also requires the review of emails, text messages, and paper records that span multiple Village departments; and date as far back as 2015.

Before the records can be released, the Village must review them in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This includes identifying information about people, businesses, or legally privileged information that requires specific review. Due to its complexity, and to balance the privacy rights of others, the Village sought professional advice to process the request lawfully. Given the scope, complexity, and resource impacts of the request, the Village applied to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) for relief. The OIPC determined that the request would continue through the ordinary FOI process. The full Order F26-35 is available on the OIPC website. The Village respects the OIPC's decision and has resumed processing the request in the most efficient way possible. This file remains ongoing.

Current estimates indicate that the request will require more than 100 additional staff hours to review and analyze records. The Village has limited resources to administer requests of this scope. Due to the additional staff time needed to process the request, the Village has needed to engage third parties where required to complete the process in accordance with the law. Recent increases in FOI activity have slowed down Village operations and represent increased costs for taxpayers.

The Village recognizes the public's right to ask and obtain information about the Village's activities, and that Freedom of Information requests are an important way to preserve trust. Requests of this scope require significant administrative time and can affect the Village's ability to deliver other services within existing capacity: particularly when they involve thousands of records, decade long time ranges and sensitive information about residents, businesses, and legal matters.

The Village remains committed to transparency, accountability, and the lawful protection of personal and confidential information.

#### Media Contact:

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